

OPTICAL-INTERFERENCE TYPE DISPLAY PANEL AND METHOD FOR MAKING THE SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an optical-interference type display panel and a method for making the same, and more particularly to a display panel in which a transparent conductive layer is employed to form connecting pads for connection to a driving circuit of the panel.

2. Description of Related Art

In order to minimize the bulky size of a computer display, the flat display was developed to replace the conventional CRT display. For example, the most well known flat display is the LCD. In recent years, different kinds of LCDs have been developed by display manufacturers. Most of these manufacturers are dedicated as far as possible to reduce the power consumption of the display so that the LCD will become more suitable for portable electronic products such as cell phones, PDAs and E-books.

Inside the LCD device, the back light module consumes the most power of all the elements. To solve the problem, a reflective type panel is developed, which utilizes the external light as the light source to replace the back light module, or to mitigate the using possibility of the back light module.

Whether for the conventional LCD panel or the reflective type panel, a color filtering film and a polarizing film are constructed in the panel so as to display the color images and control the direction of the light. Even though these thin films are pervious to light, a partial amount of light may be blocked or lost while

1 light passes through these films. To overcome the light loss problem, another
2 reflective type panel called optical-interference panel has accordingly been
3 developed. Based on the interference phenomenon caused when light passes
4 through different thin films, the aforementioned optical-interference panel is
5 able to generate the fundamental red, blue and green colors by properly creating
6 the thin film elements. Thus, the panel is able to show color images without the
7 use of said color filter thin film and polarizing thin film, meanwhile the light
8 transmittance of the panel is also improved so the panel is much more suitable to
9 be applied to the portable electronic products.

10 With reference to Fig. 12, the single pixel structure in the aforementioned
11 optical-interference panel includes a substrate (70) composed of glass or
12 macromolecule material, a first conductive optical film stack (71) and a
13 supporting layer (72) formed on the substrate (70), and a second conductive
14 optical film stack (73)(also called as a mechanical layer) partly covering the
15 adjacent supporting layers (72), whereby a gap is defined between the first and
16 second conductive optical film stack (71, 73).

17 When supplying an electric field between the two conductive optical film
18 stacks (71, 73) by an external driving circuit (not shown), the second conductive
19 optical film stack (73) will be slightly deformed and becomes closer to the first
20 conductive optical film stack (71). With the different gap distances between the
21 two conductive optical film stacks (71,73), light beams passing through the
22 panel will have different extents of interference, so that the panel is able to show
23 different colors.

24 As mentioned above, since the electrical connection is necessary between

1 the conductive optical film stacks (71, 73) and the external driving circuit, a
2 plurality of connecting pads (not shown) that connects these conductive optical
3 film stacks (71, 73) is formed on the substrate (70) for connection to the external
4 driving circuit. Generally, these connecting pads are formed by metal wires.
5 However, because the connecting pads are exposed to the air, these metal wires
6 may become gradually oxidized. Thus, the connecting quality and reliability of
7 the connecting pads may be impaired by the oxidization problem.

8 To mitigate and/or obviate the aforementioned problem, the present
9 invention provides a novel optical-interference type display panel and a method
10 for making the same.

11 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

12 One objective of the present invention is to provide an optical-interference
13 type display panel and a method for making the same, wherein the connecting
14 pads for connection to a driving circuit are made of a transparent conductive
15 layer (ITO).

16 To accomplish the objective, the method has the steps of:

17 providing a substrate;

18 sequentially forming a plurality of first conductive optical film stacks, a
19 supporting layer, a spacing layer and a plurality of second conductive optical
20 film stacks on the substrate; and

21 forming a plurality of connecting pads near edges of the substrate, wherein
22 the plurality of connecting pads is made of a transparent conductive layer of the
23 first conductive optical film stack.

24 Since said connecting pads are made of a transparent conductive layer

1 composed in said first optical conductive optical film stacks, these connecting
2 pads have the excellent anti-oxidation ability at their surface. Thus, the
3 connecting quality and the reliability of the connecting pads are improved.

4 Other objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will become
5 more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in
6 conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

7 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

8 Figs. 1A-1E show a basic manufacturing process of an optical interference
9 panel in accordance with the present invention;

10 Figs. 2A-2D show different embodiments of the first conductive optical film
11 stacks of Figs. 1A-1E;

12 Figs. 3A-3G show a first embodiment of a manufacturing process of an
13 optical interference panel in accordance with the present invention, where the
14 first conductive optical film stack is adopted from Fig. 2A;

15 Figs. 4A-4G show a second embodiment of a manufacturing process of an
16 optical interference panel in accordance with the present invention, where the
17 first conductive optical film stack is adopted from Fig. 2C;

18 Figs. 5A-5H show a third embodiment of a manufacturing process of an
19 optical interference panel in accordance with the present invention, where the
20 first conductive optical film stack is adopted from Fig. 2B;

21 Figs. 6A-6H show a fourth embodiment of a manufacturing process of an
22 optical interference panel in accordance with the present invention, where the
23 first conductive optical film stack is adopted from Fig. 2D;

24 Fig. 7 is a black light spectrum chart simulated based on the panel in

1 accordance with the present invention;

2 Fig. 8 is a white light spectrum chart simulated based on the panel in
3 accordance with the present invention;

4 Fig. 9 is a red light spectrum chart simulated based on the panel in
5 accordance with the present invention;

6 Fig. 10 is a green light spectrum chart simulated based on the panel in
7 accordance with the present invention;

8 Fig. 11 is a blue light spectrum chart simulated based on the panel in
9 accordance with the present invention; and

10 Fig. 12 is a cross sectional view of a single pixel of a convention
11 optical-interference panel.

12 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

13 With reference to Figs. 1A to 1E, a basic manufacturing process of an
14 optical interference panel in accordance with the present invention is disclosed.
15 The process includes the following steps.

16 Forming a plurality of separated first conductive optical film stacks (20) on
17 a substrate (10): these separated first conductive optical film stacks (20) are
18 formed on the substrate (10) that is composed of glass or macromolecule
19 material.

20 Defining patterns of connecting pads: portions of these first conductive
21 optical film stacks (20) are further patterned to form multiple connecting pads
22 (201)(202) near the edge of the substrate (10) (as shown in Fig. 1A).

23 Forming a supporting layer (11) on the substrate (10): a supporting layer (11)
24 is formed on the substrate (10) where the first conductive optical film stack (20)

1 is removed. That is, the supporting layer (11) is formed between two separated
2 first conductive optical film stacks (20) (as shown in Fig. 1B).

3 Forming a spacing layer (12): a spacing layer (12) is formed above each
4 separated first conductive optical film stack (20) and is further flattened (as
5 shown in Fig. 1C).

6 Forming a plurality of second conductive optical film stacks (13): these
7 second conductive optical film stacks (13) are coated on the spacing layer (12)
8 and the supporting layer (11), wherein each second conductive optical film stack
9 (13) is electrically connected to a corresponding connecting pad (202) (as shown
10 in Fig. 1D).

11 Removing the spacing layer (12): the spacing layer (12) is removed from the
12 substrate (10), whereby a gap is defined by the first and the second conductive
13 optical film stacks (20)(13) (as shown in Fig. 1E).

14 Based on the basic process as mentioned above, the connecting pads
15 (201)(202) are simultaneously formed on the substrate (10) during the forming
16 processing of the first conductive optical film stack (20). These connecting pads
17 (201)(202) are used as the signal joints for the scan lines and data lines of the
18 panel. Moreover, since these connecting pads (201)(202) are formed by a
19 transparent conductive layer (also called an indium tin oxide film, ITO film) in
20 the first conductive optical film stack (20), these connecting pads (201)(202)
21 possess an excellent anti-oxidation ability at their surface. The connecting
22 quality and the reliability of these connecting pads (201)(202) are improved.

23 With reference to Figs. 2A-2D, said first conductive optical film stack (20)
24 may be formed by different embodiments. In Fig. 2A, the first conductive optical

1 film stack (20) is sequentially composed of a transparent conductive layer (21a),
2 an absorption layer (22a) and a dielectric layer (24a) according to a sequence
3 from the bottom to the top.

4 As shown in Fig. 2B, the first conductive optical film stack (20) is
5 sequentially composed of a first dielectric layer (23b), a transparent conductive
6 layer (21b), an absorption layer (22b) and a second dielectric layer (24b).

7 As shown in Fig. 2C, the first conductive optical film stack (20) is
8 sequentially composed of a transparent conductive layer (21c), a first dielectric
9 layer (23c), an absorption layer (22c) and a second dielectric layer (24c).

10 As shown in Fig. 2D, the first conductive optical film stack (20) is
11 sequentially composed of a first dielectric layer (23d), an absorption layer (22d)
12 a transparent conductive layer (21d) and a second dielectric layer (24d).

13 Because the first conductive optical film stack (20) has different
14 embodiments as described above, the basic manufacturing process will be
15 accordingly modified based on the desired type of first conductive optical film
16 stack (20).

17 With reference to Figs. 3A-3G, the first conductive optical film stack (20) is
18 the same as shown in Fig. 2A. The basic manufacturing process is modified as
19 follows:

20 sequentially forming the transparent conductive layer (21a), the absorption
21 layer (22a) and the dielectric layer (24a) on the substrate (10) so as to construct
22 the first conductive optical film stack (20);

23 defining patterns of connecting pads (201)(202), wherein a part of the first
24 conductive optical film stack (20) is further patterned to form the connecting

1 pads (201)(202) near the edge of the substrate (10);
2 forming a supporting layer (11) on the substrate (10), wherein a supporting
3 layer (11) is formed on the substrate (10) where the first conductive optical film
4 stack (20) is removed (as shown in Fig. 3B);
5 forming a spacing layer (12), wherein a spacing layer (12) is formed on each
6 separated first conductive optical film stack (20) and is further flattened (as
7 shown in Fig. 3C);
8 removing the spacing layer (12) covering the first conductive optical film
9 stack (20) near the edge of the substrate (10), whereby the first conductive
10 optical film stack (20) formed near the edge is exposed (as shown in Fig. 3D);
11 removing the dielectric layer (24a) and the absorption layer (22a) of the
12 exposed first conductive optical film stack (20) near the edge of the substrate
13 (10), wherein the transparent conductive layer (21a) remaining on the substrate
14 (10) is used for forming of the connecting pads (201)(202) (as shown in Fig. 3E);
15 forming a second conductive optical film stack (13) on the spacing layer (12)
16 and the supporting layer (11) remaining on the substrate (10), wherein the second
17 conductive optical film stack (13) is electrically connected to a part of the
18 connecting pads (202) (as shown in Fig. 3F); and
19 removing the spacing layer (12) below the second conductive optical film
20 stack (13), whereby a gap is defined by the first and the second conductive
21 optical film stacks (20)(13) (as shown in Fig. 3G).

22 With reference to Figs. 4A-4G, the embodiment is basically the same as the
23 first embodiment, the only difference is that the first conductive optical film
24 stack (20) adopts the embodiment of Fig. 2C. That is, the first conductive optical

1 film stack (20) is sequentially composed of a transparent conductive layer (21c),
2 a first dielectric layer (23c), an absorption layer (22c) and a second dielectric
3 layer (24c). With reference to Fig. 4E, it is noted that the first dielectric layer
4 (23c), the absorption layer (22c) and the second dielectric layer (24c) formed
5 near the edge of the substrate (10) are all removed, and only the transparent
6 conductive layer (21c) remains on the substrate (10).

7 With reference to Figs. 5A-5H, the first conductive optical film stack (20) is
8 the same as mentioned in Fig. 2B. The basic manufacturing process is modified
9 as follows:

10 sequentially forming the first dielectric layer (23b) of Fig. 5A, the
11 transparent conductive layer (21b), the absorption layer (22b) and the second
12 dielectric layer (24b) on the substrate (10) so as to construct the first conductive
13 optical film stack (20);

14 defining patterns of connecting pads (201)(202), wherein a part of the first
15 conductive optical film stack (20) is further patterned to form the connecting
16 pads (201)(202) near the edge of the substrate (10);

17 forming a supporting layer (11) on the substrate (10), wherein a supporting
18 layer (11) is formed on the substrate (10) where the first conductive optical film
19 stack (20) is removed (as shown in Fig. 5C);

20 forming a spacing layer (12), wherein a spacing layer (12) is formed on the
21 first conductive optical film stack (20) and is further flattened (as shown in Fig.
22 5D);

23 removing the spacing layer (12) covering the first conductive optical film
24 stack (20) that is near the edge of the substrate (10), whereby the first conductive

1 optical film stack (20) formed near the edge is exposed (as shown in Fig. 5E);
2 removing the second dielectric layer (24b) and the absorption layer (22b) of
3 the exposed first conductive optical film stack (20) near the edge of the substrate
4 (10), wherein the transparent conductive layer (21b) remaining on the substrate
5 (10) is exposed and used for forming of the connecting pads (201)(202) (as
6 shown in Fig. 5F);

7 forming a second conductive optical film stack (13) that covers the spacing
8 layer (12) and the supporting layer (11) remaining on the substrate (10), wherein
9 the second conductive optical film stack (13) is electrically connected to a part of
10 the connecting pads (202) (as shown in Fig. 5G); and

11 removing the spacing layer (12) below the second conductive optical film
12 stack (13), whereby a gap is defined by the first and the second conductive
13 optical film stacks (20)(13) (as shown in Fig. 5H).

14 With reference to Figs. 6A-6H, the fourth embodiment is basically the same
15 as the third embodiment, the only difference is that the first conductive optical
16 film stack (20) adopts the embodiment of Fig. 2D. That is, the first conductive
17 optical film stack (20) is sequentially composed of a first dielectric layer (23d),
18 an absorption layer (22d), a transparent conductive layer (21d) and a second
19 dielectric layer (24d). With reference to Fig. 6F, it is noted that the second
20 dielectric layer (24d) formed near the edge of the substrate (10) is removed to
21 expose the transparent conductive layer (21d).

22 With reference to Figs. 7-11, these drawings respectively show the black
23 light, the white light, the red light, the green light and the blue light spectrum
24 charts that are simulated from the panel of the present invention.

1 In conclusion, the optical-reflective type display panel of the present
2 invention, without using a color filtering film and a polarizing film, is able to
3 improve the use efficiency of light. Moreover, since the connecting pads are
4 formed by the transparent conductive layer, these connecting pads have the
5 excellent anti-oxidation ability at their surface. Thus, the connecting quality and
6 the reliability of these connecting pads are improved.

7 It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics
8 and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing
9 description, together with details of the structure and function of the invention,
10 the disclosure is illustrative only, and changes may be made in detail, especially
11 in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts within the principles of the
12 invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms
13 in which the appended claims are expressed.